

REMARKS

The Examiner has set forth a restriction requirement as follows:

<u>GROUP</u>	<u>CLAIMS</u>
I	1, 3, and 8 (drawn to a method of making laminated food)
II	2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10 and 11 (drawn to the apparatus for producing the laminated food)
III	12-16 (drawn to a laminated cheese product)

In order to be responsive to the Examiner's restriction requirement, Applicants have elected Group III, claims 12-16.

The Applicants traverse this requirement for restriction on the grounds that the inventions are closely related and that it would not be unduly burdensome for the Examiner to examine them together in this application. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider the restriction requirement and to act on all of the claims in the present application. If the Examiner maintains the requirement, the Applicants reserve the right to file one or more divisional applications directed to the non-elected subject matter at a later date if they so desire.

Favorable action on the present application is earnestly solicited.

If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (703) 205-8000.

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If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.17, particularly extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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